

Re: Petition 04-160

I oppose the petition to limit the provision of local content by satellite radio broadcasters. Local radio stations in my area substantially underserve our local market, and, indeed, themselves predominantly broadcast nationally syndicated programming without significant local influence. These stations, primarily controlled by large media conglomerates, have sharply reduced their local content and relied on nationally syndicated content in what appears to me to be primarily an effort to cut costs. This cost cutting comes at the expense of the very charters of these stations to serve the public interest of their broadcast area. It seems that the radio conglomerates, through their lobbyists and the NAB, are asking the FCC by this petition to politically cripple what might prove to be effective competition in the marketplace. The FCC should let consumers have a meaningful choice in listening options by allowing satellite providers to broadcast local content rather than protect the already entrenched media giants who themselves have already abandoned many smaller local markets to the nationally-syndicated ghetto. Protecting the media giants will only exacerbate this trend, but allowing satellite providers to deliver local content will force the local stations away from their increasing homogeneity. The free market is an adequate check on broadcasters - please let it operate without further interference.